

**ADJOURNED COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
May 24, 2004
5:00 P.M.**

MAYOR JEFFREY A GRAHAM PRESIDING

PRESENT: **COUNCILMAN STEPHEN J. BRADLEY
COUNCILWOMAN ROXANNE M. BURNS
COUNCILMAN PETER L. CLOUGH
COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF
MAYOR GRAHAM**

ALSO PRESENT: **CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU**

Mayor Graham opened the adjourned meeting.

Mayor Graham advised Council that he had spoken with Mr. Boxberger concerning the salt pile issue. Mr. Boxberger informed Mayor Graham that he had referred the issue to Albany.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that Mr. Cleaves has indicated that they have completed the salt pile and it will be capped this week and closed until deliveries begin in the fall.

THE ORDINANCE “AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$60,000 SERIAL BONDS OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK TO PAY THE COST OF THE REPLACEMENT OF THE LILLIAN STREET WATER MAIN, IN AND FOR SAID CITY” WAS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL. (Appears in its entirety on page 102 of the 2004 Minutes Book).

Unanimous consent was moved by Councilman Clough, seconded by Councilman Bradley and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

THE ORDINANCE “AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$25,000 SERIAL BONDS OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK TO PAY ADDITIONAL COSTS OF THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EXTERIOR PARKING LOT AND WALKWAY LIGHTING AT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, IN AND FOR SAID CITY.
(Appears in its entirety on page 103 of the 2004 Minutes Book).

Unanimous consent was moved by Councilman Clough, seconded by Councilman Bradley and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Prior to the vote on the foregoing ordinance, Mayor Graham discussed the possibility of putting this in the operating budget and not borrowing for the project.

Mrs. Corriveau and Mr. Mills explained that it was really a \$55,000 project with the initial \$30,000 already being authorized for bonding.

Mayor Graham remarked that he sees no need to borrow further for the project since Council is trying to get away from borrowing for these small amounts.

Councilman Clough referred to the list that Mrs. Corriveau had prepared which indicates items that could be paid for out of operating funds, rather than bonding.

Mrs. Corriveau commented that other funds could be used to cover this project if Council wished to take something off the list this evening.

It was agreed that Council would discuss the budget and then come back and make a decision relative to this ordinance.

Before adjourning the meeting, Council did return to this ordinance and the following vote was called for:

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

The following resolution was presented:

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILWOMAN ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS on September 29, 2003, the City Council of the City of Watertown approved a bid submitted by Heritage Masonry Restoration, Inc. in the amount of \$42,000 as the lowest qualified bidder for the rehabilitation of the plaza at Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, and

WHEREAS additional marble masonry work that needs repair has been identified on the front of the Library and the balustrade along the sidewalk, and

WHEREAS Heritage Masonry Restoration has proposed completing the extra work for \$6,376.00,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Change Order No. 1 to the Contract with Heritage Masonry Restoration, Inc. in the amount of \$6,376.00, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Jeffrey E. Graham, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Change Order documents on behalf of the City of Watertown.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN STEPHEN J. BRADLEY AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

(Rules waived by motion of Councilwoman Burns, seconded by Councilman Bradley and carried with all voting in favor thereof.)

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mr. Mix explained that the work being requested was noticed while the restoration crew was there. He outlined the work that needed to be done and referred to the photos of the needed repairs.

Budget Discussions

Mayor Graham referred to Mrs. Corriveau's report whereby additional revenues will allow the City to eliminate the proposed real property tax increase for Fiscal Year 2004-05. He asked Council what they wished to do since there would be no tax increase.

Councilwoman Burns remarked that she was pleased that the City is in a better fiscal position. However, she doesn't want to see us take on additional debt for new services or new projects. She commented that Council needs to go through the budget looking for long-term savings.

Councilman Clough remarked that he agreed with Councilwoman Burns. He asked that the airport emergency generators be removed from the budget and the \$5,000 be added to CAPC's funding.

Capital Budget

Discussion centered on the Quonset building in Thompson Park (page 208).

Councilman Clough asked if a building this size was really needed.

Mr. Hayes explained that the City is running out of storage space. He also explained that the Newell Street facility would be a maintenance facility, not a storage facility.

Mayor Graham wondered if this could be held off a year.

Councilman Clough asked if the building should blend in with the surroundings instead of the Quonset style.

Mr. Hayes stated that the Quonset style is the cheapest.

Councilman LaBouf remarked that this is a legitimate case of needing storage and he wouldn't want to put a lot of money into a storage facility if a Quonset style building would offer the needed storage.

Mrs. Corriveau indicated that it is in this budget, but they are planning on paying for it out of the operating budget. A report will be prepared for Council outlining costs of new versus reconditioning the present one.

Discussion centered on roof replacements (page 196 & 197). Mr. Hayes and Mr. Monaco explained the problems with the roofs.

Councilwoman Burns remarked that if the roofs are that poor, they'll fall in and she doesn't see any option but to replace them. Mayor Graham opposed the roof replacement for page 196. However, the rest of the Council concurred that both roofs needed to be replaced.

Fairgrounds Field Drainage (page 198) was discussed. Mayor Graham commented that it seems that a drainage problem should be fixed during the year and is not something to bond for.

Mrs. Corriveau remarked that she agreed and this project is in the list she prepared this evening.

Councilman Clough remarked that the City should hold off on the project.

Mayor Graham asked how pressing it was.

Councilman Bradley commented that parking is a big problem over there.

Councilman Bradley and Councilwoman Burns said the project should be left in.

The Court Street parking lot (page 203) was discussed. It was agreed that this could be done in three phases and \$25,000 would be used for phase 1.

The Arcade Street parking lot (page 205) was discussed. Mr. Mix explained that the diagram in the budget book is distorted to fix the box. There really isn't as much space as it looks in the picture.

The Route 3 Wave Access (page 206) would be to create access for judges, scoreboards, etc.

Mayor Graham asked about occupancy tax (page 174).

Mrs. Corriveau explained that \$35,000 is for zoo expansion and the other \$30,000 is destination marketing through the T.I. Council.

Mayor Graham responded that he was never sold on the idea that municipalities should be funding the operating budgets for the tourism industry.

The tennis courts (page 209) in Thompson Park were removed from the budget.

Councilwoman Burns asked about the service provided to towns by the paratransit vans (page 212).

Mr. Hayes explained that these vans are used daily and provide service ½ mile outside of the City. It is a service that is mandated and is used extensively.

Police vehicles (page 216) were discussed. Mr. Cleaver explained that there is an agency, which will dispose of retired police vehicles on the Internet.

Discussion was held concerning the Battalion Chief's vehicle (page 218). Chief Sayre explained the need for an SUV for this particular position. He explained what is carried in the vehicle and the fact that it goes to all general alarms.

Councilwoman Burns responded that she made her position clear last time. She stated that she doesn't think a sports utility vehicle is needed.

Mayor Graham remarked that he has noticed that everybody wants a sports utility vehicle. He stated that it decreases gas mileage and decreases efficiency. He stated that he agreed with Councilwoman Burns.

Mrs. Corriveau asked if Council would consider replacing the vehicle that has a 100,000 miles on it with a car.

Councilman LaBouf asked about the equipment that is carried in the vehicle.

Chief Sayre explained that turnout gear, lights, radio, hazmat library and keys for all the buildings in the City are carried in the vehicle.

Chief Gaumont also explained that the vehicle is deployed for every general alarm and outside the City for all mutual aid calls.

Councilman LaBouf responded that he feels the equipment is vital to many of the missions. He stated that he would hate to hinder that equipment from getting to the scene.

Councilman Clough asked about the equipment in the trucks.

Councilwoman Burns also asked if there was no equipment on the trucks.

Chief Sayre explained that each unit carries the gear to support the crew on it. This equipment is SCVA equipment, monitoring equipment, hazmat information and all the equipment that supports what the Battalion Chief has been called to do.

Mayor Graham asked what the rationale had been for supplying a sports utility vehicle to the Fire Chief.

Chief Gaumont commented that he responds from home 24/7. It originally was intended to be a command post for each fire scene.

Mayor Graham asked if the Battalion Chief wouldn't be on the scene first.

Chief Gaumont responded that sometimes there are multiple scenes.

Councilman LaBouf remarked that response time is critical.

Councilman Clough responded that this is not so much about response time.

Councilman LaBouf remarked that he disagreed stating that during a bad snowstorm, a sports utility vehicle would do better than a sedan would.

Councilwoman Burns asked how many of these vehicles were in the Police Dept.

Chief Piche stated that there was only one – the K9 vehicle.

Councilwoman Burns commented that the Sheriff's Department covers 22 towns in the county and to her knowledge, they only have one.

Councilman LaBouf remarked that one couldn't compare Fire Departments to Police Departments.

Councilwoman Burns responded that she considers both to be public safety.

Councilman LaBouf commented that each department has different needs and usage.

Councilman Bradley responded that they were still just hauling extra equipment.

All Council members, with the exception of Councilman LaBouf, agreed to remove this from the budget.

Fire Engine/Pumper 2 (page 219) was discussed. Councilman Clough asked about the study recommending quints.

Chief Gaumont explained that the study gave a number of options but didn't suggest all quints.

The Fire Safety Trailer (page 220) was discussed. Councilman Bradley stated that he is 100 % in support of this. It was explained that the primary advantage of having this trailer is that it could be used as a permanent edition to the department's education plan.

Councilman Bradley asked if this would be shared with other towns and villages and was assured that it would be.

The Main Avenue street reconstruction project (page 224) was discussed. Mr. Pilon and Mr. Hayes explained the project to Council.

Mayor Graham commented that this is a good example of a street that you wouldn't want to put sidewalks down both sides.

The proposed telephone system (page 210) was discussed. Mrs. Corriveau explained that staff would get new numbers and come back to Council with the updated plan. Mr. Keenan explained the situation to the Council and remarked that the present system in the building is failing.

Mayor Graham remarked that he discovered there is a real difference of opinion on this subject after he spoke with Creg Systems. He stated that he doesn't want to be looped into a situation just to show support for the DANC system.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that they are looking at systems with DANC and Verizon.

Mr. Keenan remarked that they have also been talking with Creg Systems.

Library Fund

Mayor Graham commented that he has concerns about paying for a fundraising person for the library campaign. He stated that he would like a legal opinion on this.

Councilman Clough asked what happens if the library doesn't raise the rest of the money and questioned if the City would be stuck coming up with the difference.

Councilwoman Burns remarked that the vice president of the library board is an attorney and has given legal advice to them.

Mayor Graham questioned if people were less likely to give if they knew that \$60,000 goes to a fundraising person.

Councilwoman Burns commented that Council didn't know about the fundraising person when the library requested money the first year. She commented that some donors felt that there needed to be a show of support from the City.

Councilman Bradley explained that he is on the conservancy board and they also used a fundraising individual. This person didn't go out and get the money but did give information to the board as to how to raise the funds. He stated that their most successful campaign was when they used a fundraising person.

Councilwoman Burns commented that some people feel that the City of Watertown dropped the ball in our obligation to keep the building in the condition that it should be.

Mayor Graham remarked that he couldn't recall any request from the library on building issues that Council ever said no to. He stated that to say the City dropped the ball is an unfair characterization.

Councilwoman Burns commented that she doesn't know why the work wasn't done, but it needs to be done now.

Mayor Graham responded that this is a management issue, not a political one. He also asked for a list of the capital improvements that had been done at the library through the 1990's when he was Mayor. It was supplied to all Council members.

Councilman Clough commented that the scope of the project has expanded immensely.

Mrs. Corriveau remarked that it has changed some from last year. Last year, the historical restorations were in the project. This year, the renovations to the rest of the building have been added to the project. She also explained that the City committed to \$500,000 only and would not be responsible for the rest of the \$1.5 million if the fundraising fell short.

Councilman Bradley remarked that the \$500,000 would be less than the historical renovation estimates, which come in at \$885,000. Therefore, the City's share still would be for the original scope of the project.

Councilwoman Burns asked about in kind services.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that Mr. Hayes sat in on the discussions with the library regarding this. It will depend on availability of city crews and the work that is being planned to be done.

Councilwoman Burns commented that she is sure the library would be glad to give a presentation if the Council so desired.

Mayor Graham responded that he would like to see the contract for the fundraising person. He stated that he wants to make sure that this is legal. He stated that he doesn't mind the \$1.5 million, if it makes a qualitative difference for the users.

Councilwoman Burns suggested that she and Mrs. Corriveau meet with Ms. Graves and some other board members.

The Thompson Park Pump House (page 238) was discussed. Mr. Pilon explained the need for moving the facility to the area adjacent to the reservoirs, within the fenced compound.

Water & Sewer Funds

Councilman Clough asked what the 20% increase in the sewer bill would mean cost-wise for the total water/sewer bill.

Mr. Pilon distributed figures outlining a 30-unit bill. The total bill would have been \$139.38. With the increase, the bill would be \$151.42 – a difference of \$12.04 or 8.6% per quarter.

General Fund

Council reviewed pages in the general fund section of the budget. Discussion was held concerning the Engineer's position. Mrs. Corriveau explained that it has been proposed to reinstate the full-time position that Tom Solar is in on a part-time basis and perhaps that slot could be filled easier than the Engineer's position.

Mayor Graham wondered about the feasibility of having the water department be placed under the City Engineer and suggested looking into that for next year.

Councilwoman Burns commented that perhaps this is another area where the County and the City can work together, since in some instances they are doing the same thing.

Councilman Clough remarked that we've asked Mr. Pilon to handle both jobs and it is unfair to him to make him continue to do two jobs and get paid for one. A decision needs to be made in the short term.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that she doesn't disagree. The former Executive Secretary to the Civil Service Commission was doing a survey on other cities and how the Engineering Department was set up. It was not finished and therefore, time is needed for the new person to get the required information together.

Councilman Clough remarked that there should be someone below Mr. Pilon in each department to handle the day-to-day operations.

The Refuse and Recycling Program (page 65) was discussed. Mayor Graham suggested having a drop off location each Saturday morning for \$1.00 a bag.

Mr. Hayes explained that the totes offer a great cost savings to City residents.

The GIS position in Information Technology (page 72) was discussed. Mr. Keenan explained the position to the Council. He explained that GIS would touch most of the departments and to appoint someone would be the most efficient use of personnel resources. The person would be doing data entry and application and would have to have expertise in GIS. He explained many cities have this type of system and, depending on the size of the municipality, have dedicated GIS teams or individuals. He also explained

that the County has a dedicated person for GIS. He also explained that if the City used interns, there would be no continuity and the intern would have no expertise on the organization. In addition, the internship would be too short a period of time.

It was agreed that Council members would give it more thought and would ask any questions they had on the subject prior to the next meeting.

Councilwoman Burns asked questions concerning the Police Department's (page 74) overtime budget. Chief Piche explained that the figure is up do to a number of long-term injuries and the law enforcement duty at the airport. The amount will decrease by \$55,000 once the County takes over the airport. He also explained that the PBA is looking at 12-hour shifts. That would also alleviate some of the overtime.

Mayor Graham commented that he is not completely sold on the longer shifts.

Mrs. Corriveau asked if the Council concurred to appropriate the funding to pay for the capital projects as outlined and discussed in the budget. Council concurred.

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR MEETING WAS DULY ADJOURNED AT 9:25 P.M. UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2004 AT 6:45 P.M. BY MOTION OF COUNCILMAN CLOUGH, SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Donna M. Dutton

City Clerk